

SCOPING CONCERNS: PROPOSED COAL DUMP AND STORAGE SITE

2463 Hilltop Road
Ferndale, WA 98248
November 21, 2012

GPT/Custer Spur EIS
1100 112th Ave. NE, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a homeowner and Ferndale resident living about 6 miles from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal site. I chose Ferndale to retire to because of the incredible beauty in the surrounding area and the fact that Bellingham is a University town. I really appreciate being able to see Trumpeter Swans, Eagles, Coyotes, weasels and Snowy Owls in the area, and the ability to buy delicious salmon from local fishermen.

The proposed dump site for coal being off-loaded from trains is expected to be between 80 and 105 acres in size and it would be 6 miles from my home. We have severe winds here both from storms coming from the south and from the Fraser River Valley. In addition, we are near the Straits of Georgia and of Juan de Fuca both of which funnel winds our way.

Given the severe winds, what is the expected circumference of the area that will be exposed to coal dust particulate from the dump site? What is the expected impact on the soil and water of the coal dust which contains arsenic, cadmium, barium, chromium, selenium, lead and mercury? What will be the impact on our raspberry farmers over time? On our dairy farms? On area organic farms and gardens? On our local health from breathing and ingesting this particulate?

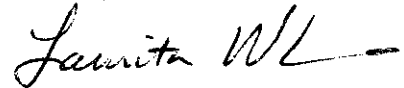
Canadian citizens who are neighbors of Westshore Terminals and Prince Rupert Port complain about coal dust covering their homes and boats and a lawsuit in Seward, Alaska submits that coal dust is being dropped into its local bay, violating the Clean Water Act. What is the impact on our Marine Reserve? On our fish and fishermen?

Studies show a trend of declining moisture during the summers and increasing moisture during winters with lower snow melt in the summers in this area. How much water will be used to dampen down the coal in the dump? Where would this water be coming from? How will this impact our local farmers and homeowners use of available water?

We have been warned that our Pacific Northwest is vulnerable to substantial earthquakes and tsunamis and in fact we are due for an extremely major earthquake at any time. What would be the impact of

such an earthquake and tsunami on the area surrounding the coal port given the huge amount of coal which would be stored there? What would be the impact on our local aquifers? What is the impact of rain falling on the coal during normal times on our local aquifers?

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurita Whitford", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laurita Whitford

SCOPING CONCERNS: MARINE IMPACTS

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The proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal site is a spawning ground for Herring which feed the earliest salmon runs, which in turn feed the Orca. How will destroying the Herring spawning ground impact the Orca? How would this impact the fishermen who currently make their living fishing for salmon? How would this impact tourists wanting to show their children Orca?

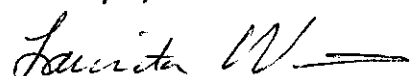
This proposed terminal would be built on a deep water trench which is an important environmental zone as phyto- and zooplankton which form the bottom of the food chain thrive in such a place. What are the impacts of sharply increased marine traffic? What would the impacts be on the environment in this area of marine accidents spilling bunker fuel and/or coal? Impact on fishermen?

80 to 105 Acres of open coal heaps would be in proximity to an aquatic reserve in an area subjected to high winds. What impact does coal dust have on marine plants and animals, and what ultimately is the impact on salmon, fishermen and the orca?

The site is proposed to be built on a wetland with rail loops on wetlands and uplands, and with a wharf and trestle area over water. What is the impact on the ecosystem?

In order to get a realistic impact on marine life, please do a study of the health of the marine ecosystem surrounding the Roberts Bank super port in British Columbia.

Thank you,



Laurita Whitford

SCOPING CONCERNS: MARINE VESSEL TRAFFIC

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The proposed terminal at Cherry Point would require the addition of over 900 annual transits through the Strait of Georgia. There are already 850 annual transits from the 3 existing marine piers. The marine traffic would grow unprecedently high if Kinder Morgan's major pipeline expansion proceeds. The tankers that carry the coal carry bunker fuel sometimes in the amount of 10,000tons or more. Bunker fuel is extremely difficult to clean up. The tankers are up to 950 feet long by 106 feet wide, too wide to fit through the Panama or Suez Canals. A 2008 Vessel Risk Assessment study done by BP Refinery indicated a dramatic increase in the potential for accidents with increased marine traffic.

If there were tanker collisions or any oil and/or coal spill, what would the ramifications be for the health of the ecosystem, salmon stocks, fishermen and orca (which is a protected species)? Many jobs in San Juan are ocean-related; what would the impact be on these jobs? Who would pay for the clean-up attempts? Let it be noted that the state has reduced funds available for oil spills.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Laurita W.", followed by a horizontal line.

Laurita Whitford